MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

Volume XXIII **January, 2019** **Number 1** *archived edition*

REVIEWING 2018 RESEARCH

Midwest Computer Genealogists will meet on Saturday, January 19, 2019 at 9:30 a.m. in Bromwell Lounge at Brookdale Foxwood Springs in Raymore Missouri. Because of winter weather challenges, we decided in 2017 not to invite an outside speaker to our January meetings. We will have a short 2019 business meeting, but we want to discuss the family research of all of our participants to see what successes or challenges they have experienced during 2018.

We all need to preserve our family history. It is not necessary for us to be professional writers in order to preserve our family research. One can always edit text, but the information cannot be created if it is beyond our own experience.

There are professional writers available to convert the information to books if one does not want to or cannot write it However, the information must be prepared originally by the researcher. Our descendants will appreciate this preservation of family history.

Al Morse continues to preserve his "The President's Corner" articles for his children and grandchildren. When we were younger, we did not have time to do this kind of research or take an active interest in the research, but it is important for us to preserve this history now for future generations in our families.

We are looking forward to seeing you. Everyone is welcome to attend.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Al Morse

As we start a new year, I have tried to think about and remember how I celebrated the new year. As I grew up in Rich Hill, Missouri, I do not remember staying up till midnight to welcome in the new year. Since my dad, Albert Frank Morse, had to get up early every day to be at work by 7 a.m., we usually went to bed between 9:00 and 10:00 pm. Even as a teenager I do not remember staying up to bring in the new year.

Even after Dorothy and I got married on August 18, 1963, I do not remember us staying up and celebrating the new year. After the boys were born and were growing up, we did start staying up. It was sometimes a struggle and even, occasionally, one or more of us might doze off. After the boys got older, they might go to a New Year's Eve party.

For several years after the boys graduated from high school and left the house, our friends, Larry and Sharon, and Dorothy and I would go out to eat and see a movie and then go to one or the others' house. We would then welcome in the new year. Sometimes it would be an effort to stay awake. One year I did celebrate the new year in Research Hospital in Kansas City, Missouri. I had my left kidney removed because of cancer on December 27, 1999. I was there when January 1, 2000 occurred. I watched television all day, watching the celebrations around the world. Since you do not sleep much in a hospital, I did see the new year and new century come in.

At our house in the retirement community of Foxwood Springs, Raymore, Missouri, we would go to bed before midnight. I sometimes would wake up to hear fireworks going off at midnight. But, I have basically, most of my life, been an early to bed and early to rise kind of person. Most every day I am up before 5 a.m. I read my devotional booklet and read from the Bible. I then go on an early morning walk. I walk around my neighborhood every morning, regardless of the weather. While

walking I pick up the Kansas City Star newspaper that had been thrown by the paper carrier. I walk the paper up to the front door and stand it there for the resident. I took over this opportunity from a gentleman who lived to be 97.

As I grew up, we always returned to school on January 2, unless that was a Saturday or a Sunday. After I started teaching, the Independence, Missouri school district started classes again on January 3, my birthday. It was amazing how many times I celebrated my birthday by returning back to school from Christmas vacation.

As I approach this new year, I do so with apprehension. My wife, Dorothy, had a difficult time with her health this past year of 2018. In fact as I write this on December 31, 2018, Dorothy is in the Foxwood Springs Care Center under hospice care. This new year is going to start with much uncertainty and, probably, sadness. But I know that I am not the first to face this kind of a situation. So by faith, I will go on. I also know that I have two sons, a daughter-in-law, and two grandsons and many friends to help me.

Dorothy passed away at 4:19 a.m. on January 3, 2019.

. . REMEMBERING DOROTHY MORSE

Marjorie Slavens

On Thursday, January 3, we were sad to learn of the passing of Dorothy Morse. Dorothy and Al moved to Foxwood Springs from Independence in 2008, and both of them have been very active in this community and have many friends here, in Independence, and in the Rich Hill and Foster communities of Bates County.

In the June, 2017 MCG Newsletter, Al wrote, "My wife, Dorothy Jean (Newcomb) Morse, has lived life with many health concerns. She is a three time cancer survivor, has had two open heart surgeries, and has lost total use of her left arm and hand. Yet, through all of this, she has helped raise two sons, played the piano and organ at church, was a legal secretary, and still leads a productive life."

We are frequently told that our family histories should include medical information, and doctors sometimes asked for detailed family histories. As usual in his "The President's Corner" articles, Al Morse has shown us how important such information can be beyond its use in a family history.

Dorothy Jean (Newcomb) Morse was born April 21, 1942 in Bates County, Missouri. Her parents, Herbert Edgar Newcomb and Dorothy McDaniel, both attended school through the eighth grade. Her mother started her schooling in Miller County, Missouri and finished her eighth grade from Nyhart School, a one-room school southwest of Butler, Bates County, Missouri. Her father actually attended the Virginia one-room school that Dorothy attended years later

Dorothy attended rural schools before going to high school in Rich Hill. She started her education in the Virginia school. Al says "I attended all 12 years in the same building, but my wife, Dorothy (Newcomb) Morse, had a different story. She and her parents, Herbert and Dorothy (McDaniel) Newcomb, lived on a farm a couple of miles east of Foster, Bates County, Missouri. She started school in the fall of 1948 and attended Virginia, a one-room school, that was a quarter mile from the house. Students attended grades one through eight there. In addition to the school, there were two out-houses, a coal shed, and a well. The students all drank from the same dipper in the bucket of water. There was a coal stove to heat the building during the winter. This school building was closed in 1953.

Dorothy then went to the school in Foster for her sixth, seventh, and eighth grade years. This school had four rooms, although only three were used at that time. It also had a cafeteria and indoor bathrooms. Grades 1-3 were in one room, grades 4-6 were in a second room, and grades 7-8 were in the third room. A bus picked Dorothy up to take her to school in Foster.

Beginning her ninth grade year, she rode a bus to Rich Hill and to Bryant School. This is a distance of about ten miles. This is where we met. We both graduated in 1960, so we are celebrating our 55 th school reunion this year. ("The President's Corner", May, 2015)

Al said Dorothy asked him for their first date for a Sadie Hawkins dance. After graduating from high school in 1960, Al attended Central Missouri University in Warrensburg for three years, where he recieved his degree in Mathematics August 17, 1963. Dorothy worked in Kansas City as a secretary for the FBI. They were married August 18, 1963, one day after Al's graduation. Al began teaching in the Independence District the next month.

He taught junior high, high school, and some Advanced Placement courses for 31 years full-time and 4 years part-time. Their son, Brian, was born in 1967, and Steve was born in 1970.

Al was active teaching mathematics in the Independence Public School System and being involved with school meetings and other activities. Dorothy started decorating cakes and had an excellent business. Al says, "Our boys grew up with great birthday cakes." She then started working part time at Cloth World. She sewed most shirts for Al and the boys. She sewed suits, sport coats, and dress slacks for him. She sewed most of her dresses. She also cut Al's and the boys' hair, as well as her own.

Dorothy's father played the fiddle and his brother played the guitar for local dances when she was young. She had a piano and always loved music. Dorothy and Al became active at Eastgate Christian Church in Independence. He taught Sunday School and became a Deacon and an Elder. Dorothy sang in the choir and played the piano and organ. Their son, Brian, plays the guitar, and Steve plays the piano and accordian. Brian is a Christian Church (DOC minister and is a chaplain at Truman Lakewood Medical Center. Steve is an IT for a computer company, which sells software to libraries. He and his wife, Kelly, have two sons, Wyatt, 17, and Owen, 14, who was born on April 22, one day after his grandmother's birthday; Dorothy thought that was the best birthday present anyone could have.

After Al's retirement, they bought an acre and a half from Dorothy's cousin about 5 miles west of Rich Hil. They sold some of the farm land, but they still owned 80 acres, which both of them liked to visit and look for berries and nuts. Dorothy's mother was in a nursing home near the farm, and they wanted to be close to her. When their health needs increased, they moved back to their house in Independence. When they moved to Foxwood, their son Brian, continued to live in that house, and Al liked to go there to pick grapes when they were in season.

Dorothy Morse is a very impressive lady; in spite of her disabilities as described here, she was a painter an took classes At Foxwood. She painted identical pictures of her parents' house for each of their sons. Al and Dorothy worked together preserving products from their garden and fruit from their farmland. They occasionally share some of their canned products with family and friends. They have contributed some of their canned goods to the Fall Festival to raise funds for the Fellowship of John. Dorothy has worked in the Bake Shop for the Festival, and Al has worked several years managing the Furniture Garages for this fund-raising. For several years, they were Parish Leaders in Parish 12.

Al has been President of Midwest Computer Genealogists for 6 years and writes his "The President's Corner" articles about their family history. They have researched Dorothy's McDaniel, Colvin, Burke, Newcomb, and Gaston family lines. They have visited many cemeteries in Miller County and Bates County as they try to reconstruct the family history.

This year, they were able to celebrate the discovery of the remains of Dorothy's uncle, Charles McDaniel, who disappeared in 1950 while he was serving in the Army in Korea. About 20 years ago, Dorothy did a DNA test for the government that could be used to identify the remains. They

were surprised and very pleased recently when his remains were returned from Korea after 68 years. Dorothy's cousins, Charles and Larry McDaniel, were able to be tested and receive their father's dog tag and remains Charles, Jr. was at Dorothy's Memorial service

Dorothy has been our very dependable proof reader for this newsletter; she can find mistakes when neither Al nor I can find them. Her experience as a legal secretary for the FBI required such careful review of text, and we have benefitted from that skill.

We will miss Dorothy. She died on Al's birthday, January 3. His friends regretted that his loss occurred on his birthday, but Al says he had no regrets because he knows now that she is at peace and well again without any disability.

RECOMMENDED READINGS

"The Year was 1943"
from *Ancestry Weekly Journal,* 18 May, 2008
"The year was 1943 and World War II raged on. In Leningrad, there was finally a break in the siege of that city . . ." Read more here: https://blogs.ancestry.com/circle/?p=2527

"January 17, 1944: The Battle of Monte Cassino Begins"
by Jenny Ashcraft of Fold3.com, 1 Jan 2019
"In January 1944, one of the longest and bloodiest battles of the Italian Campaign of WWII began at Monte Cassino. . . ." Read more here: https://blog.fold3.com/january-17-1944-the-battle-of-monte-cassino-begins/

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THE SLAVENS OF MISSOURI–PART 1

Marjorie Slavens

People sometimes ask me if I am related to someone in Missouri named Slavens. Although some lines of the family came to this state very early, I am not closely related to many of them. A book on the John Slaven (yes, no final "s") family was published by Forest L. Slaven of Louisiana in 1953, but he did not know we existed. However, when he published his second edition, they had found us. Although we have researched the family line, and we have a book now of about 300 pages, we have not yet published it. There is information we have not yet verified.

Our Slavens and Stewart immigrant ancestors were John Slaven and Elizabeth (Betty) Stewart. We do

not know When John arrived, but the Pennsylvania Archives 2nd Series Volume 2 p. 498 says "John Slaven age 24, born in Ireland July 15 weaver Provincial Service Muster Roll of Company of Foot Captain John Shannon. Discharged October 31, 1747". John first lived in Delaware and later moved to Augusta County and, later to Bath County, Virginia in the southwestern part of the state. Elizabeth Stewart, daughter of Daniel Stewart from Scotland and their family lived in Sussex County, Delaware. We have no immigration record for either John or Elizabeth, but both were in Delaware by 1746-47.

John and Betty had 10 children: Comfort, born November 3, 1751; William, born June 3, 1753; Elizabeth, born February 10, 1755; Naomi, born January 30, 1758; John, born April 10, 1760; Isaiah, born June 12, 1762; Reuben born July 10, 1763, "on a Sunday morning"; Daniel, born May 17, 1764, Stuart, born July 19, 1765; Henry, born 1767. Descendants of Stuart remained on theVirginia land. Several children went to West Virginia and Ohio. Descendants of Isaiah, Reuben, and Henry, all of whom used the final "s" on the surname, came to Missouri.

Reuben Slavens (7-J) Married Sally Nancy Kennison, and they moved to Ohio, first to the Scioto Valley and then to Pike County. He died around 1840, and he and Sally Nancy are buried in the Galford Cemetery.

Their fourth child, John, was born December 28, 1798 In Bath County, Virginia. He first married Mary Ruckman in 1823, and their son was Reuben. After Mary's death in 1827, He married Rebecca Meade Brace Crull in 1828. They came to Missouri, by way of Indiana and Illinois, about 1837 and settled in Henry County. They came with their children, Nancy Ann Brace Reuben, George Washington, born November 23, 1829, Margaret Melinda, Ruthette, and Elizabeth. He died in Henry County, Missouri December 28, 1865, and she died December 10, 1881; both are buried in the Bethlehem Cemetery.

George Washington Slavens, my great great grandfather, married Nancy Parks, Agnes Jane Parks Nichols, and Sarah (Sally) Settles Brown. He died July 23, 1907 in Clinton, and is buried in Bethlehem Cemetery, Henry CountyMissouri with his wives, Agnes and Sally. His first wife, my great great grandmother, Nancy Jane Parks, was buried in Parks Chapel Cemetery. G. W. Slavens had 3 sons and 7 daughters.

John Reuben Slavens, my great grandfather (1859-1887, was born in Henry County and died in California. Only John Reuben and his brother, Charles, had children with the Slavens surname. His older son, my grandfather, William Howard Slavens (1883-1940) had a child, my father, Ralph Westmeier Slavens (1907-83), and my brother, George Everett Slavens (1931-2017) was his only son .

Descendants of Isaiah, sixth child of John , the immigrant, and Henry, the tenth child, also came to Missouri. Among their descendants in this state. James William Leander Slavens, son of Hiram B. And grandson of Isaiah (6-J), was a meat packer in Kansas City following the Civil War. He was mayor of both Westport and Kansas City. William Stuart Slavens and Thomas Slavens, sons of Isaiah (6-J) came to green, Dallas, and Lincoln Counties in Missouri. William Stuart's son, James Hervey Slavens was a well-known Methodist minister and doctor, who preached the first sermon in Springfield, Green County.(To be continued.)

(Note: Join us on January 19 and bring your family research information to share.

Bring your membership form to the meeting or send it to Byron Gilbreath, Treasurer, 1412 W. Stone Blvd., Raymore, MO, 64083.)

OFFICERS

Al Morse, President
Byron Gilbreath, Treasurer
Marjorie Slavens, Newsletter Editor, Programs

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MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS

MEMBERSHIP FORM

January 1- December 31, 2019

NAME _____

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DATE OF PAYMENT _____
Check one.
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP: $15.00 _____ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP: $20.00_____

GIFT TO MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS: $_____

PURPOSE OF GIFT: _____

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF, AND A SUPPORTER OF, MIDWEST COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS!

Please send Form and Check to:
Byron Gilbreath, Treasurer
1412 West Stone Blvd.
Raymore, MO 64083-9121
Phones: Home 816-265-0833 Cell 816-260-7609
E-Mail: cbgilbreath@comcast.net

DATE PAYMENT WAS RECEIVED BY TREASURER:
DATE PAYMENT WAS DEPOSITED IN BANK:
F.Y.I.: Our meetings are on the third Saturday of each month at 9:30 a.m., except for September and December, when there are no meetings. We meet in Bromwell Lounge in the Administration Building at BROOKDALE Foxwood Springs 1500 Foxwood Drive (Missouri Highway 58), in Raymore, Missouri. You are always welcome at any of our meetings!